



galerie **leonard**
& **bina**
ellen
art gallery

EXHIBITION FINAL REPORT
TRAFFIC: CONCEPTUAL ART IN CANADA 1965-1980, PART 2

CURATORS:
JAYNE WARK (HALIFAX)
CATHERINE CROWSTON (WINNIPEG/CALGARY/EDMONTON/THE ARCTIC)
GRANT ARNOLD (VANCOUVER)



Installation view of *Traffic* at the Ellen Gallery, Vancouver section, 2012
Photo: Paul Litherland

EXHIBITION PROGRAMMING YEAR 2011-2012

EXHIBITION TITLE: *Traffic: Conceptual Art in Canada 1965-1980, Part 2*

CURATORS: Jayne Wark (Halifax), Catherine Crowston
(Winnipeg/Calgary/Edmonton/The Arctic), Grant Arnold (Vancouver)

EXHIBITION DATES: March 16-April 28, 2012

EXHIBITION DESCRIPTION:

Traffic: Conceptual Art in Canada 1965-1980 was organised and circulated by the Art Gallery of Alberta, The Justina M. Barnicke Gallery (University of Toronto), and the Vancouver Art Gallery, in partnership with the Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery (Concordia University), and Halifax Ink.

Focusing on conceptual art practices in Montreal and Toronto, *Traffic, Part 1*, was visited by thousands of gallery-goers and enthusiastically received by the media. *Le Devoir* described *Traffic* as “necessary” while *Voir* called it nothing less than a “major achievement.” The equally anticipated *Traffic, Part 2* highlighted conceptual art practices in Halifax, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, the Arctic, and Vancouver.

In *Traffic, Part 2*, projects realized at the famous Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) in Halifax by artists such as Dan Graham, David Askevold, Martha Wilson and Gerald Ferguson, all at the forefront of conceptual art at the time, are featured. In Vancouver, artists Vincent Trasov and Michael Morris sought to break down the boundaries between art and life while Christos Dikeakos and Ian Wallace used art-making strategies that addressed systems of capitalism. In Calgary, the University hired artists such as Clive Robertson and Paul Woodrow who embraced the ideas of a growing counterculture. The artist-run centre Plug In and Gallery One One One in Winnipeg were important places for experimentation for, among others, artists Gordon Lebrecht and Max Dean. The exhibition *Place and Process*, organized by the Edmonton Art Gallery, was a major conceptual art event for which artists Hans Haacke, Robert Morris and Dennis Oppenheim produced works. The Arctic was also the scene of various interventions by Lucy Lippard, NETCO, and Lawrence Weiner.

EVENTS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMMING:

- **March 16-April 28, 2012, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm:** Opening
- **March 17, 2012 at 3 pm:** Tour of the Halifax section of *Traffic* with curator Jayne Wark
In English. Free Admission.
- **April 21, 2012 at 1 pm:** Panel Discussion: *Curating Traffic*
Featuring curators Grant Arnold (Vancouver), Catherine Crowston (The Prairies and the Arctic), Barbara Fischer (Toronto), Michèle Thériault with Vincent Bonin (Montreal), and Jayne Wark with Peter Dykhuis (Halifax) discussed *Traffic* as a collaborative curatorial model, providing insight into the process of bringing together an exhibition of this scale and scope.
J.A. de Sève Cinema, LB-125, Concordia University
In English. Free Admission.

See **Annex A** for attendance statistics for all events and public programs.

DIDACTIC MATERIALS

▪ Wall Texts

Descriptive labels on the wall were presented on the wall in English. French translation of the label texts were presented in stapled documents and made available to the public. Gallery visitors could walk around the exhibition and consult their document if necessary.

▪ Tabloid

Within the framework of the exhibition *Traffic*, the Ellen Gallery produced a bilingual tabloid that featured the curatorial wall texts for each featured city or region in the exhibition. It also presented lists of all of the featured artists (by region) as well as a selection of images of key works from the exhibition. Finally, it included an insert of all public programs offered in conjunction with *Traffic*. It was designed by artist Micah Lexier in collaboration with Emmelyne Pornillos. Offered free of charge to all visitors. About **300** tabloids were distributed.

▪ Ways of Thinking

Curatorial texts for each section in addition to a bibliography for each city or region are also available on the Gallery's website in the section *Ways of Thinking* / *Pistes de réflexions* (in French and English).
http://ellengallery.concordia.ca/en/reflexion_traffic.php

PRESS REVIEW (Print and On-line)

Jérôme Delgado, "Les mirages de Tousignant", *Le Devoir* (1 April 2012): E9.

"La une!", *Le vadrouilleur urbain* [blog], 15 April 2012.

<http://levadrouilleururbain.wordpress.com/2012/04/15/table-ronde-panel-discussioncommissarier-traffic-curating-traffic/>

Nicolas Mavrikakis, Vernissages à ne pas rater, *Voir* [blog] (15 March 2012).

<http://voir.ca/nicolas-mavrikakis/2012/03/15/vernissages-a-ne-pas-rater/>

Nicolas Mavrikakis, "Table ronde à ne pas rater," *Voir* [blog] (21 April 2012)

<http://voir.ca/nicolas-mavrikakis/2012/04/21/table-ronde-a-ne-pas-rater/>

Camille Paly, L'art conceptuel: un art de contre culture, *Le Délit* (20 March 2012), p. 14.

DOCUMENTATION: Digital images by Paul Litherland/Studio Lux, ©LBEAG

ANNEX A

Attendance Figures:

Exhibition Dates: March 16-April 28, 2012

Number of Days open to the public: 29

Total exhibition attendance (excluding events and gallery tours): 971

Total exhibition attendance (including events and gallery tours): 1244

Events:

March 16, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm: Opening 155

March 17 at 3 pm: Tour of the Halifax section of *Traffic* with Jayne Wark 25

April 21 at 1 pm: Panel Discussion: *Curating Traffic* 75

Total Attendance - Events: 255

Tours:

April 11, 2:45 pm 5

Audience: Dawson College students

Bilingual Walk-in Tours: For the general public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 - 2:30 pm.

Total walk-in tour participants: 13

Total Tour Attendance: 18